



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY, EUROPE, AND SEVENTH ARMY
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL
UNIT 29351
APO AE 09014-9351

AEAGA

26 June 2003

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Army in Europe Command Policy Letter 20, Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers (BOSS) Program

1. References:

a. AR 215-1, Morale, Welfare, and Recreation Activities and Nonappropriated Fund Instrumentalities, 25 October 1998.

b. DA Circular 608-01-1, Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers Program, 29 August 2001.

2. The BOSS program supports the overall quality of life for single and unaccompanied soldiers. BOSS identifies well-being issues and concerns and recommends improvements through the chain of command. It also encourages and helps single and unaccompanied soldiers identify and plan recreational and leisure activities. Additionally, it gives these soldiers the opportunity to participate in and contribute to their respective communities.

3. Corps, division, brigade, battalion, and unit commanders will develop and maintain an active BOSS program by doing the following:

a. Ensure that each corps, division, brigade, battalion, company, and separate unit appoints BOSS representatives, both primary and alternate, on additional duty orders.

b. Ensure that the noncommissioned officer (NCO) support channel is knowledgeable and supportive of the BOSS program. The senior NCO at each level should serve as the BOSS mentor.

c. Ensure that the BOSS representative is allowed enough time during normal duty hours to attend and conduct meetings, brief the leadership, research issues, and present information.

d. Ensure that the BOSS representative maintains and updates a BOSS information book and bulletin board.

e. Ensure that single and unaccompanied soldiers are informed about BOSS-related activities and are allowed to attend meetings and participate in scheduled BOSS activities within mission constraints.

f. Develop a method for single and unaccompanied soldiers to raise issues and concerns.

g. Include the BOSS program as part of the unit newcomer orientation.

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4. The BOSS program allows single and unaccompanied soldiers to—

a. Raise issues that affect their overall standard of living and quality of life. The appropriate chain of command is then given primary responsibility for resolving these issues with assistance provided by the BOSS program and installation services, depending on the nature of the issue. The BOSS program will not circumvent the chain of command to resolve issues or concerns raised by soldiers. This ensures that soldiers feel free to voice concerns without retribution, and that the chain of command is given the opportunity to resolve leadership concerns.

b. Voluntarily participate in and contribute to community service projects and programs. Volunteer services may be in the form of the individual soldier offering his or her time and energy. BOSS members may also volunteer as a group to enhance selected projects or programs that benefit their local communities. All commanders and NCO support channels are encouraged to allow soldiers to participate in community service activities within mission constraints.

c. Select, plan, and participate in activities or events of their choice. Events should be planned to meet the needs and desires of these soldiers. BOSS representatives should solicit ideas from their unit's single and unaccompanied soldiers and share them within the BOSS community.

5. My goal is to have continuous, dynamic command participation as the driving force behind our BOSS program. Commanders and soldier representatives, together with the staff of the United States Army Installation Management Agency, Europe Region Office, must work as a team to ensure that the needs of our soldiers are foremost in the decision-making process. Through the involvement of our BOSS programs, we will have a positive and direct effect on the community and well-being of soldiers throughout the Army in Europe.



B. B. BELL
General, USA
Commanding

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